

TS 77811
Copy No. 3

13 November 1953

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MEMORANDUM FOR [REDACTED]
OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND REPORTS

SUBJECT: Ad Hoc Committee on Review of NSC 26

1. At the risk of repeating what you have already been told on the purposes of this committee, I am writing this memorandum to give you the discussion that prompted its creation, and to indicate the type of material you might be able to contribute to it.

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2. The NSC 26 policy, [REDACTED] to prevent Middle East oil from falling into Soviet hands in the event of war, have been under scrutiny in the NSC Planning Board. Although the particular issue appeared to be reassignment of basic responsibility to Defense rather than State, at the Planning Board meeting on about 4 November the JCS representative raised a question whether there was any need whatever [REDACTED] policy. Their

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[REDACTED] They also argued that the Middle East might be held, which however, seems a dubious assumption on which to base policy.

3. Following the discussion, General Outler, Chairman of the Planning Board, called for the creation of the present Ad Hoc Committee. The purpose of the committee is to make a recommendation as to whether there is a need for a [REDACTED] policy. The committee is not to examine the question of allocation of responsibility for such a policy, although of course the feasibility of post-hostilities [REDACTED] could be an important factor in its recommendation.

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4. As you know, the CIA representatives are yourself and [REDACTED]. It was planned that [REDACTED] would cover all operational matters [REDACTED] and would also provide the committee with his invaluable experience in the actual working of NSC 26. Your appointment was designed to supply the committee with the best possible spokesman on the subject

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of Soviet need for Middle Eastern oil, whether the Soviets could have use of the fields if they got them undamaged, and similar questions. As you can see this is partly a matter of the figures on Soviet supply and need, and partly a matter of whether the Soviets could transport the oil or conceivably refine and use it on the spot, and to what degree in each case.

5. As I understand it, Monday's meeting will be the first under actual NSC auspices, last Monday's meeting having been among the experts to explore certain ideas of Col. Montgomery. [redacted] of the NSC staff, who will be chairing the meeting, intends to make it clear that the primary purpose of the committee is as stated above, and not operational responsibility. I suggest that you bring to the meeting the best available figures and studies on Soviet petroleum supplies and requirements, and whether and to what extent these could be affected by Middle Eastern oil. I believe [redacted] plans to be at the meeting.

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[redacted]
NSC Board Assistant

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